

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated May 17, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claim 1 is hereby amended. Accordingly, claims 1-13 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Yamazaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,247,191) in combination with Shigeta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,253) and Havemann et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,891,804). Claims 3, 6, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Yamazaki et al. in combination with Shigeta et al., Havemann et al., and Senda et al., as applied to claims 1 and 2, and further in view of Charneski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,284,652) and/or Eriksson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,632,435). Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Yamazaki et al. in combination with Shigeta et al. and Havemann et al., as applied to claims 1 and 2, and further in view of Senda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,364,459).

The rejections of claims 1-13 are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-13 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements of claim 1 including, for example, "forming the first metal on the second metal in the groove by submerging the substrate in the mixed solution wherein the height of the first metal on the second metal is substantially the same as the height of the substrate, and wherein a surface include the surface of the substrate and the surface of the first metal is substantially planar." None of the cited references including Yamazaki, Shigeta, Havemann, Charneski, Eriksson, and Senda, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention.

The structure of claim 1 of the present invention is different from the Yamazaki, Shigeta, Havemann, Charneski, Eriksson, and Senda structures in that none disclose the substantially planar surface as recited in claim 1 as amended. Accordingly, Applicant

respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 2-13, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

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Respectfully submitted,

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